

## **Abstract**

### **NON CANNULATED DILATORS**

5 A non-cannulated dilator that is designed with a rigid elongated solid  
body and with a judiciously configured tip is utilized as the first dilator of a  
series of dilators which are inserted into the body of a patient for minimally  
invasive spinal surgery and is made from a solid elongated body, that could  
be round, ovoid or other cross sectional configuration whose diameter is  
greater than one and a half (1½) millimeter, and that includes a tool engaging  
end portion at the proximal end is sufficiently rigid so as not to bend and has  
10 a pointed shaped insertion end portion at the distal end with the point of the  
pointed end being discreetly blunted and utilized in a surgical procedure as a  
replacement of the typical guide wire and is characterized as providing a “feel”  
to the surgeon as it penetrates through the tissue and muscle of the patient as  
it proceeds toward the target.